



Australian Foundation for Palestinian Children – “Olive Kids” Annual Report - 2015/2016

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The Australian Foundation for Palestinian Children (*Olive Kids*) 2015/2016 annual report presents the achievements of the foundation on key projects and initiatives.

Sponsorship project

Olive Kids' sponsorship program expanded to support 214 orphans this year. *Olive Kids* is committed to the ongoing continuation of this critical program, offering sustainable support from our kind Australian sponsors to our children in Gaza totalling \$128,400 in annual aid.

Olive Kids also continues to improve this program, to ensure orphans services are covered and a portion of the sponsorship is set aside for the orphans' education. Additionally, this year *Olive Kids* began making arrangements for the construction of an *Olive Kids* wing at Al-Amal Institute for Orphans.



Clothes Drives

The ongoing clothing drive program continued during the year. High quality used clothing and toys were collected throughout the year. Shipment is expected at the end of the calendar year. As per usual arrangements, the shipment is targeting the refugee camps in Jordan, and will be distributed in partnership with UNRWA.



Fundraising Events

Annual Dinner

The Olive Kids 8th Annual Fundraising Dinner was held on the 29th of May, at Peninsula on the waterfront of Victoria Harbour, Docklands. This year's event was the most successful one to date as reflected by the astounding fundraising effort. As a result of this event we were able to raise \$100,500 in pledges towards the construction of an Olive Kids wing at Al-Amal. In total, including major donations both local and international, Olive Kids has raised \$229,379 for this project.



This year's Empower Gaza campaign aims to accomplish the following:

- Install solar panels at Al-Amal to enable them to have a more constant source of electricity and significantly reduce the current monthly energy bill of USD\$20,000
- Sponsor 50 additional orphans
- Send a new medical mission to Palestine
- Ship another container of aid to the refugee camps
- Fund the expansion of Al-Amal in Gaza by building an Olive Kids wing. This new wing will enable Al-Amal to host children from as young as 1 day old up to 5 years of age. At a total cost of \$200,000, a whole floor would allow the orphanage to house a total of 75 additional children.

Projects

Medical Missions

In collaboration with the Union of Health Work Committees (UHCW), *Olive Kids* facilitated an Australian medical mission to Alwada Hospital in Gaza. Lead by Associate Professor David Croacker (General and Neonatal Paediatric Surgeon) and also including Mr Paul Chicchio (Nurse) and Ben Wagstaff (Doctor), the team conducted many operations and ran multiple training sessions for local surgeons. Per the ongoing arrangements, Olive Kids covered the costs of airfare and accommodation.



The next mission is planned for May 2017.

Collaboration with Children First Foundation

Olive Kids is proud to have continued a decade of collaboration with the Children First Foundation (CFF). During the year, we continued to offer our support to CFF with the treatment of Ali (17 years old) and Farah (8 years old) in Australia, both heading home during the year after successful treatment.

Olive Kids provides volunteers and translation assistance in addition to any other support the Children First Foundation may require.

Youth Leadership program - Know Thy Heritage

Olive Kids continued our ongoing partnership with HCEF. This year saw the largest delegation of Australian-Palestinians making the trip to Palestine to date. In July 2016, 10 Australians joined the



2016 program, 3 of which were returning to the program as mentors. This brings the KTH leadership program alumni to a total of 25.

[Know Thy Heritage](#) (KTH) is an annual leadership program developed by The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF) to preserve the Arab Palestinian heritage. It aims to connect youth of Palestinian ancestry who live in the Diaspora, with their roots in Palestine. KTH is a partner of *Olive Kids*.

FY16 Focus

In FY17, *Olive Kids*' focus will be directed towards planning our ambitious long-term project to build a new wing at Al-Amal for children under 5 years old. Whilst the building won't begin before mid 2017, finalising planning and funding will be planned during FY17.

During the year, we will also be financing the solar solution at Al-Amal, a project promoting sustainability and reducing reliance on the unpredictable power supply in Gaza. The project is expected to start before the end of the calendar year.

On the education front, Olive Kids will start a sponsorship program to help bright students from poor families in Palestine. The program will aim to establish partnerships with local universities to help in the vetting process and provide support to our efforts. The program will aim to start early 2017.

Olive Kids will also continue to engage Australian youth particularly from the community to expand our volunteer network and grow our work.

Olive Kids Board